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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7849  
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE 2082  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0859

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 000451

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FOR EUR/SE CYPRUS DESK, NEA/ELA S SITA SONTY, NEA/PI KENT PATTON, AND DRL/NESCA JOE BARGHOUT.

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/25/2012

TAGS: KDEM PREL PHUM SY EUN CY

SUBJECT: CYPRUS CLAIMS "NO TIME" TO TAKE STANCE ON SYRIA'S "REFERENDUM"

REF: STATE 71071

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Jane B. Zimmerman for reasons 1. 4 (b) and (d).

(C) DCM conveyed on May 24 objectives in reftel to MFA Political Director (P equivalent) Ambassador Euripides Evriviades. Evriviades expressed concern that the short timeframe for action might impede the EU from formulating a common position and statement on Syria's upcoming "referendum." DCM urged, then, a unilateral statement by Cyprus. Evriviades demurred, noting that the Indian FM's arrival in Cyprus on May 25 would make high-level discussion and coordination of this issue difficult. He kindly offered, however, to try to follow-up with DCM sometime later on May 25 before the holiday weekend (for Cyprus as well as the U.S.). Post will report immediately any developments.

SCHLICHER